

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London More Inclusive

Contemporary Dance Trust

Adv: Julia Mirkin

Amount requested: £55,637

Base: Camden

Benefit: London-wide

Amount recommended: £55,000

Purpose of grant request: Support is sought for: 1. lift refurbishments so they can be used for evacuation of our disabled patrons in an emergency; 2. building-wide hearing enhancement system.

Background

'The Place' is the home of the Contemporary Dance Trust (CDT); it is a Victorian building in Euston, designed by Robert Edis and opened by the Prince of Wales in 1889. It was originally the home of the Middlesex Artists' Rifle Volunteers, a Special Forces regiment of the British Army Reserve. The Contemporary Ballet Trust, as it was then called, moved into the premises in 1969. With assistance from the Arts Council and the Linbury Trust, CDT purchased the building's freehold and an adjacent building in 1976, allowing the building to be extended.

CDT has four main areas of business: it manages and maintains The Place, which is the building that houses 11 dance studios, the theatre and other specialist facilities, such as a sound and film editing suite and a fully-equipped Pilates body conditioning studio; it manages and runs London Contemporary Dance School, which is a world-class conservatoire for contemporary dance, offering pre-vocational, undergraduate, postgraduate and research programmes; it houses the Richard Alston Dance Company, a leading choreographer-led company; and houses the Robin Howard Theatre, making it one of London's leading dance houses. In addition to managing these core functions, CDT delivers an extensive community dance programme, an artists' development programme and is a Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) for 10 – 18 year olds who show potential – a training programme funded by the Department for Education. CDT's activities attract approximately 121,000 visitors annually, including dancers, teachers, audience members, students and community class participants. In 1999 a £7m renovation of The Place was undertaken, which extended its facilities and also made them fully accessible. In 2013, CDT carried out further renovations to its building at a total cost of £830,741, towards which it contributed its entire £200K Capital Improvement Fund. This project updated seating and equipment in the Robin Howard Theatre, increasing space for wheelchair seating from two to six in the auditorium. Improvements were also made to the building's boilers and windows to improve energy efficiency.

Funding History

You have awarded two previous grants to CDT, the first for £50K in 2000 towards the costs of installing two lifts and a sound loop in the theatre at The Place. The second was for an access audit in 2013, which identified the need to update and extend the hearing loop across the whole building and improve the lifts.

Current Application

LCD wishes to improve the accessibility of its building to enhance the experience of its disabled visitors following the Access Audit by the Centre for Accessible Environments. It proposes to update the hearing loop in the Robin Howard theatre, improving the experience of its disabled patrons; it also proposes to extend the hearing loop to all areas of the building, including the café, bar, box office etc., allowing hearing impaired visitors to access the building's facilities independently; finally, it wishes to carry out improvements to its lifts, installing an independent power supply, allowing disabled visitors to evacuate the building unaided in the case of an emergency.

CDT has recently entered into partnership with Cando2, the youth company linked to CandoCo, the eminent London-based dance company of disabled and non-disabled dancers. Therefore, CDT's studios are frequently used by disabled young people, serving as an introduction to the theatre, community dance class programme and other activities and opportunities offered by CDT.

Financial Observations

Audited accounts for the year ended 31st March 2013 show total income of £6,543,628 and an operating deficit of £43,709 (0.7% of turnover), comprising a deficit of £133,702 on restricted funds partially offset by a surplus of £89,993 on unrestricted funds.

The reserves policy is to hold £649,000 of free unrestricted reserves, which is equivalent to 9.7% or 5.1 weeks' worth of current year expenditure. At 31st March 2013, free unrestricted reserves stood at £797,820, which is equivalent to 6.2 weeks' worth of current year expenditure.

The forecast for the year ended 31st March 2014 shows total income of £6,615,525 and a deficit of £9,665 (0.1% of turnover), all on unrestricted funds. The budget for the current year to 31st March 2015 predicts total income of £6,621,397, of which £3,500,415 (52.9%) had been confirmed as at 23rd April 2014. The remaining income of £3,120,982 (47.1%) relates to earned income £2,890,982 (2013/14: £3,164,940) and fundraising income £230,000 (2013/14: £473,000). After projected expenditure of £6,668,000, a deficit of £46,603 (0.7% of turnover) is forecast all on unrestricted funds. At 31st March 2015 free unrestricted reserves are predicted to be £741,552, which is equivalent to 5.8 weeks' worth of current year expenditure.

Officer's Appraisal

CDT has repeatedly demonstrated its commitment to accommodating and improving the experience of disabled visitors and you have played a significant role in supporting its work to this end. Since the application was submitted, the amount for fire seals and a fire curtain is no longer required. However, other items for fixtures and fittings, also recommended in the Access Audit, will replace a large proportion of this amount and therefore the grant as recommended will be sufficient to cover all costs now identified.

Recommendation

£55,000 towards the cost of refurbishing the lifts; updating and extending the hearing loop system; and making changes to fixtures and fittings to enhance accessibility for disabled visitors to The Place.

The City Bridge Trust

Investing In Londoners: Application for a grant



About your organisation

Name of your organisation: Contemporary Dance Trust	
If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name?	
In which London Borough is your organisation based? Camden	
Contact person: Miss Graziella Terracciano	Position: Trusts Fundraiser
Website: http://www.theplace.org.uk	
Legal status of organisation: Registered Charity	Charity, Charitable Incorporated Company or company number: 250216
When was your organisation established? 19/12/1966	
Aims of your organisation: Our vision is to be a world-class artistic centre that is a pioneering force for dance. Our mission is to transform lives through dance. We are committed to developing new and enhanced ways of engaging audiences and participants, while continuing to focus strongly on building a sustainable future for dance as the UK's leading supporter of dance artists. The Place aims to transform lives through dance and to shape where dance is going next	
Main activities of your organisation: Since its inception in 1969, The Place has been a driving force for contemporary dance in the UK and Europe and one of the world's key resources for dance development. The Place has an ecosystem for contemporary dance unlike any other in the world, with complementary activities under one roof which include: an acclaimed international-touring dance company (Richard Alston Dance Company); a world-class dance conservatoire (London Contemporary Dance School); the busiest dance theatre in the UK, the Robin Howard Dance Theatre); an extensive professional artist development programme; and learning and participation opportunities for the broadest range of ages and abilities. The space is used regularly by disabled artists and performance groups (such as Candoco and Cando2); children, young people and adults attending our recreational and prevocational courses; professional independent artists; students of the acclaimed London Contemporary Dance School; and the many other visitors of The Place every year, which include conference attendees and performance attendees.	

Number of staff

Full-time:	Part-time:	Management committee members:	Active volunteers:
74	17	15	0

Property occupied by your organisation

Is the main property owned, leased or rented by your organisation?	If leased/rented, how long is the outstanding agreement?
Owned	

Grant Request

Details of grant request

Under which of City Bridge Trust's programmes are you applying? Making London More Inclusive
Which of the programme outcome(s) does your application aim to achieve? Community buildings that are more accessible and as a result
Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence. Support is sought for: 1. lift refurbishments so they can used for evacuation of our disabled patrons in an emergency; 2. building-wide hearing enhancement system.
When will the funding be required? 30/06/2014
How much funding are you requesting? Year 1: £55,637 Year 2: £0 Year 3: £0 Total: £55,637
Do you plan to continue the activity beyond the period for which you are requesting funding? If so, how do you intend to fund it? No
If you need any planning or other statutory consents for the project to proceed, what stage have the applications reached? We do not require any planning or other statutory consents for the project to proceed.

Summary of grant request

The Place's purpose-built premises houses state-of-the-art facilities for its many dance-related activities, including: a 300-seat theatre; an internationally-acclaimed conservatoire; headquarters for a professional dance company; and some of the best studios in the city. The Place opens its doors seven days a week to a diverse mix of patrons, representing a range of ages, skill levels and access requirements. It is estimated that approximately 121,000 people engage with dance at The Place each year.

Holding fast to the belief that "dance is for all", The Place remains committed to supporting diversity among dance makers and their audiences. Evidence of this commitment can be seen in its collaborations with organisations like Candoco (a professional dance group which integrates able and disabled dancers), and through its rich programme of educational and artistic activities, strategically designed to prompt and enable participation by all London audiences, artists and students, regardless of their access needs.

An Access Audit was conducted by Brenda Puech from the Centre for Accessible Environments (thanks to a £3,600 grant from City Bridge Trust), which identified the main access issues to be: 1) no evacuation lift with an independent power supply, which could be used in case of an emergency for disabled visitors and staff; and, 2) lack of a suitable hearing enhancement system in the theatre and studios.

As a result, we are now requesting financial support for renovations to the lifts to make them usable in the case of an emergency and for the purchase and upgrade of a system for our hearing impaired visitors, which represents the second largest disability group among our patrons.

Driving this project is the desire to create an environment which encourages an increased and sustained engagement with The Place by our two largest disability groups, whether as an audience member, student, artist or staff. We aim to do this by: 1) Ensuring the infrastructure is in place to enable our disabled patrons to participate fully in the offerings available, putting their dignity at the centre of our decisions; 2) Improving user experience for our hearing impaired patrons by upgrading our current hearing enhancement system in the Theatre and expanding the system to include other public areas, including studios, both reception counters, the Theatre Bar and the Cafe, which is frequently used for post-show discussions.

Quotes from the work have been attained from a number of specialist companies and the work we are asking City Bridge Trust to support will be delivered over the summer months in 2014, when the building is typically less busy.

Our understanding of the challenges we face have been guided by the feedback received from our patrons and staff with disabilities, and is monitored continually. We will continue to ensure these and other patrons remain involved, gathering feedback at key points to ensure we remain on track.

Total cost of this work is £80,773. £25,136 is being contributed by The Place to pay for the upgrade to the control panel on the Flaxman Terrace lift (costing £18,211) and for the secondary power supply to the Duke's Road lift (costing £6,925), while a further £55,637 is requested from City Bridge Trust to enable us to complete all the work, as detailed in the Access Audit.

Outputs and outcomes

What are the main activities or outputs you want to deliver? Please include no more than 5. By activities or outputs we mean the services, products or facilities you plan to deliver. If you plan to deliver work over more than one year you should include activities over the full grant period requested. Try to be specific.

Refurbishment to lifts at The Place so they can be used as a primary source of evacuation in case of emergency.

Implementation of an induction loop system throughout The Place, and the improvement of our outdated system within The Robin Howard Dance Theatre, which will facilitate engagement with our many activities for those with hearing impairments.

What main differences or outcomes do you hope the activities you have described above will achieve? Please include no more than 5. By differences or outcomes we mean the changes, benefits, learning or other effects that result from the work your project would deliver. These might be for individuals, families, communities or the environment.

Preserve the dignity and increase safety of wheelchair users by making lifts usable during an evacuation.

Improve visitor experience and increase engagement opportunities for anyone with a hearing impairment: until now many of our public spaces, including those used for post-show talks and receptions, are very challenging aural environments.

Who will benefit?

About your beneficiaries

How many people will benefit directly from the grant per year?

121,000

In which Greater London borough(s) or areas of London will your beneficiaries live?

London-wide (100%)

What age group(s) will benefit?

All ages

What gender will beneficiaries be?

All

What will the ethnic grouping(s) of the beneficiaries be?

A range of ethnic groups

If Other ethnic group, please give details:

What proportion of the beneficiaries will be disabled people?

1-10%

Funding required for the project

What is the total cost of the proposed activity/project?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Lift adaptation: control panel for Duke's Road lift	18,211	0	0	18,211
Lift adaptation: control panel for Flaxman Terrace lift	18,211	0	0	18,211
Building works: fire seals and curtain (Duke's Road)	8,625	0	0	8,625
Secondary power supply (Duke's Road)	6,925	0	0	6,925
Upgrade Robin Howard Dance Theatre hearing equipment	5,102	0	0	5,102
Purchase and installation of new hearing equipment (Building wide)	23,699	0	0	23,699

TOTAL:	80,773	0	0	80,773
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What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
The Place contribution	25,136	0	0	25,136
	0	0	0	0

TOTAL:	25,136	0	0	25,136
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What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0

TOTAL:	0	0	0	0
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How much is requested from the Trust?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Lift adaptation: control panel for Duke's Road lift	18,211	0	0	18,211
Building works: fire seals and curtain (Duke's Road)	8,625	0	0	8,625
Upgrade Robin Howard Dance Theatre equipment	5,102	0	0	5,102
Purchase and installation of new hearing equipment (Building wide)	23,699	0	0	23,699

TOTAL:	55,637	0	0	55,637
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Finance details

Please complete using your most recent audited or independently examined accounts.

Financial year ended:	Month: March	Year: 2013
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Income received from:	£
Voluntary income	534,071
Activities for generating funds	0
Investment income	7,264
Income from charitable activities	5,753,083
Other sources	249,210
Total Income:	6,543,628

Expenditure:	£
Charitable activities	6,074,662
Governance costs	52,385
Cost of generating funds	133,503
Other	326,787
Total Expenditure:	6,587,337
Net (deficit)/surplus:	-43,709
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses):	0
Net Movement in Funds:	-43,709

Asset position at year end	£
Fixed assets	6,901,308
Investments	0
Net current assets	1,270,852
Long-term liabilities	0
*Total Assets (A):	8,172,160

Reserves at year end	£
Endowment funds	200,955
Restricted funds	6,650,276
Unrestricted funds	1,320,929
*Total Reserves (B):	8,172,160

*** Please note that total Assets (A) and Total Reserves (B) should be the same.**

Statutory funding

For your most recent financial year, what % of your income was from statutory sources? 41-50%
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Organisational changes

Describe any significant changes to your structure, financial position or core activities since the date of your most recent accounts:
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Previous funding received

Please list the funding received by your organisation from the following statutory sources during the last THREE years.

	2010 £	2011 £	2012 £
City of London (except City Bridge Trust)	0	0	0
London Local Authorities	33,272	32,440	23,722
London Councils	0	0	0
Health Authorities	0	0	0
Central Government departments	0	0	0
Other statutory bodies	3,698,724	3,836,067	3,688,113

Previous grants received

Please list the grants received by your organisation from charitable trusts and foundations (other than City Bridge Trust) during the last THREE years. List source, years and annual amounts. Please include the 5 largest only.

Name of Funder	2010 £	2011 £	2012 £
Leverhulme Trust	59,000	59,000	59,000
Monument Trust	0	100,000	100,000
Foyle Foundation	0	25,000	25,000
John Ellerman Foundation	0	20,000	20,000
Columbia Foundation	0	0	10,209

Declaration

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, all the information I have provided in this application form is correct. I fully understand that City Bridge Trust has zero tolerance towards fraud and will seek to prosecute and recover funds in every instance.

Please confirm: Yes Full Name: **Graziella Terracciano**

Role within **Trusts Fundraiser**
Organisation: